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S/ Jan Hostasa
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Rajendran S. Michael et al.

: Examiner: Alicia Ann, Chevalier

Serial No.: 10/039,055

: Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 31, 2001

For: VEHICLE ENERGY
ABSORBING ELEMENT

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the claims:

1. (currently amended): An energy-absorbing element capable of absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision, the energy-absorbing element comprising at least one layer of composite material having a semi-compacted thickness less than an initial prepared thickness comprising a mixture of mineral fibers and organic fibers.

2. (currently amended): An energy absorbing element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mineral fibers and said organic fibers are entangled as composite material